

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed May 28, 2004, for the present application has been reviewed. The present Office Action allows claims 21, 22 and 24. Claims 8, 13 and 15 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. The present Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

By the preceding amendments, Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16 and 23 have been withdrawn. Claims 8, 13 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 8, 13, 15, 21-22 and 24 are pending in this application. Considered together with the following remarks, these changes are believed sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to the application. Applicants express appreciation for thoughtful examination by the Examiner.

**CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102**

The present action rejects claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16 and 23. By the present amendments, claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16 and 23 are withdrawn. In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit they have addressed the all aspects of the rejected claims.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The present action also states claims 21, 22, and 24 are allowed. Further, claims 8, 13, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 8, 13, and 15 in

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independent form and include the limitations as requested including all intervening claims. Applicants therefore believe claims 8, 13, and 15 are in condition of allowance, and respectfully request such allowance.

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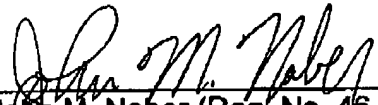
**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have addressed each and every item presented by the Examiner in this Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of all of the claims as amended is earnestly solicited. Applicants submit that the present application, with claims as amended, is in a condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance.

In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 31, 2004

  
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